



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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## Balliolum vulgo Bell

**Stock#:** 24694  
**Map Maker:** Blaeu  
**Date:** 1649  
**Place:** Amsterdam  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 20.5 x 16 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

Striking view of the City of Belle, from Blaeu's *Novum Ac Magnum Theatrum Urbium Belgicae*.

Belle the subject of repeated invasions in the seventeenth century by Spanish and French troops until it was added to France in 1678.

Blaeu produced this map during the period between the end of the Twelve Year Truce between the United Provinces and Spain and the official ending of the eighty year war and recognition of the United Provinces as an independent state by the Spanish royal house. After the Truce, it became apparent Spain would not re-conquer the seven northern provinces. The truce had deepened the cultural and political gap between the northern and the southern provinces, which had become more and more pro-Spanish.

Frustrations about the southern attitude to the conflict, political tensions within the United Provinces, a desire to re-conquer what had been lost, and the appearance of France as a new contestant on the battle field in the southern provinces led to a new upheaval in hostilities and stimulated an interest in the United Provinces in key positions in contested over areas, military bases and old as well as new battle sites, as we see reflected in the depictions on Blaeu's maps.

### Detailed Condition: